

IMPULSION

Kentucky Dressage Association

Local Artist

The cover art is a painting by Jaime Corum of Louisville, Kentucky. To see more of her work, visit www.jaimecorum.com.

Show Calendar

May 25-27 KDA Warm-up Show & KDA 32nd Annual Dressage Show

July 6-8 KDA Summer Classic I and II, KDA Summer Classic I, KDA Breed Show, KDA Summer Classic II, KDA Breed Show II

July 7-8 USDF North Central Series Breed Championship

August 4-8 Annual KDA Schooling Show

October 11-14 KDA Fall Classic & USDF Region 2 Championships

November 17 KDA Awards Banquet & Annual Meeting

November 18 KDA Schooling Show



Letter from the President

Dear KDA Members,

What a wild spring we have had in Kentucky with the winter that seemed to never end and then a jump straight into summer heat.

Our Spring Warm Up show is right around the corner and KDA has had some big changes, not only with our show schedule but with our management. As most of you already know, the National Pony Cup will not be joining us in July, but we will host the North Central Series Breed Championships along with our July dressage show. Rest assured, KDA is still committed to our smaller equine competitors and will be offering \$500 in prize money for ponies at our May shows.

Clinics

Gwen Poulin

Dates:

Friday, June 15-
Sunday, June 17

Location:

Spring Run Farm
10200 Covered Bridge
Road, Prospect, KY

Lilo Fore

Dates:

Friday, August 3-
Sunday, August 5

Location:

Stables at Queens Lake
292 Soards Road
Georgetown, Ky

Renew your memberships
to be eligible for KDA
clinic sponsored pricing &
members get first
preference on rides

The KDA board of directors has added a new member to our team. I would like to welcome Catherine Greenwood as our new KDA Administrative Coordinator. If you have visited our website or noticed how lovely the e-blasts have been, then you will have seen her work. We are excited to have Catherine on board to help with our ever-growing needs as a club.

The Impulsion also has a new look and our new editors are doing a great job. Thank you so much to Jeannie Larkin and Ashley Holden for stepping up to take on this huge role. I hope to see you all at the shows and clinics this summer.

Cheers,
Daphne Nimmons-Marvin
KDA President

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Introduction of KDA Administrative Coordinator

Thank you, KDA board, for selecting my management hiring bid, providing me with the opportunity to serve the art and sport of dressage in the commonwealth of Kentucky. I am grateful to Michelle Morehead for providing me with the guidance and documents for success. I look forward to serving the members of the association. In the first month I moved the website to a more secure server host and created a modern template with updated features with in-site membership purchase options. In the second month I jump-started a new e-blast. I encourage members to read the occasional email from the KDA — I attempt to stuff it full of clinic and show details. In the most recent few weeks, I dedicated my time to the spring show program using Adobe

InDesign. I hope it's a blast from the past for our longtime members and competitors. I believe it is important to maintain a positive flow of information between association and members. I encourage members to connect with us via social media. Rather than members receiving emails several times a month, a quick stop on Facebook can let you know about extended entry deadlines and auditing opportunities. I am looking forward to the 32nd Annual Spring Show; I hope to see you there.

Catherine A Greenwood



The Neigh

Name: Bailey TOF aks Pony
Age: 18
Breed: Haflinger
Place of Birth: Barrington, IL
Owner: Kimberly Phillips
Training: 3rd Level

Where did you and your person meet? Here in Lexington. I was in a big field full of golden ponies, and she picked me.

How did you get your name? It's a Haflinger thing, because I am a girl I had to be named using the first letter in my mom's name (Biery). The TOF stands for Tudor Oaks Farm, where I was born.

What's a favorite memory you have shared with your person? The day she told me I was all hers.

If you weren't busy being an awesome dressage horse, what industry would you work in?

Entertainment. I have already been a mermaid at Breyer Fest and a circus pony at the Horse Park parade of breeds. Two magazine articles were written about me, and I am in a music

Video. I love the attention.

Tell us about your best equine (or non-human) friend. If you had a free pass to leave the farm, where would you all go first?

Hmmm...I guess Gabby is my best friend because she hangs out with me to eat grass. But why leave? There is enough grass here.

Tell us about your favorite move to stay in shape. Yoga while taking my grazing muzzle off.

What is your favorite way to relax after a show? A nice, long day of grazing.

If you could win a free year's supply of your choice you would choose? Bananas

What would you tell the dressage judge about you? Look judge, I'm changing leads. It should not matter how I get from one lead to the other.



Junior/Young Rider Clinic

I am Madelyn Taray, a 16-year-old sophomore at Ballard High School in Louisville. I have been riding dressage for approximately five years. I began taking lessons on the OTTB that my mom got for me for Christmas in 2011. I initially thought that I wanted to be an eventer and started doing the local shows. After a couple years of 4H and some local schooling shows, I found that dressage was what I really enjoyed. I got serious and began training and competing in dressage.

After selling my OTTB in 2016, I leased Laura Burket's GP schoolmaster, Chackomo M. After a year of showing him and riding in clinics on him, I earned my USDF Bronze and Silver medals. I have now taken on a new project. I now own an OTTB mare that I have been working with since October.

When we heard about the junior/young rider clinic at Majestic Farm with George Williams, KC Dunn, owner of Timbach Farm, suggested I apply to ride with one of her mares, Elzarma TF. I sent in an application and went to Timbach to become better acquainted with Elle. Rebekah Mingari gave me several lessons on Elle and helped me get to know her a little better. Rebekah and I recorded a video of me riding Elle through the Junior Team Test as part of the requirements to be considered for the clinic.

When I was accepted into the clinic I was very excited. I've



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ridden in many clinics but to be riding with George Williams on a very talented horse was such an amazing opportunity. While getting to know Elle and learning to better ride a horse of that skill level, I found a whole new love for this sport. Going into this clinic I was being shown how to ride in a more effective and harmonious manner, and George was able to help a tremendous amount over those two days.

George was able to explain how to ride effectively with your seat and find harmony at the end of each ride. He explained the reasons behind everything we did, which helped me better understand why I was doing certain things and what those things would help me with in the future. The key to the horse I was riding was neck down and out. If I was able to get her neck down and out and taking my hand with five pounds in each rein I could do anything I wanted.

My main goal with Elle was to be better in sync with her and to be able to get her head and neck in a place where I could successfully perform shoulder in, half pass, etc. George had me do many exercises which mainly included moving Elle off my inside leg (whether it be by doing leg yields, 10-meter circles, or just spiraling in and out on a circle) to encourage her to put her hind legs under and carry but also to help supple her neck down.



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These simple exercises helped me gain access to her hind legs and get her head in a spot where her back was up, hind legs were carrying, yet she was in an uphill balance.



George also explained that an important part of all that is the half halt, which is needed to rebalance the horse back onto the hind legs to achieve that uphill balance needed to perform the movements. This all taught me the importance of having your horse listening to your seat. If they are always there and listening, you are able to make small adjustments as need be. By having Elle listening to my seat and attentive to my aids at all time I was able to keep her body where it needed to be. This also allowed me to successfully complete movements George asked of me, with him reminding me that her neck needed to be down an inch more or that my left elbow was flying off into the sky!

While I learned so much during my two lessons, I learned just as much or even more watching the other riders' lessons. Yes, it was 30 degrees and snowing but to gain full clinic experience and learn the most you can it's just as important to watch every rider's lesson. Taking notes is a great idea as well because if we're all honest with ourselves about one thing it's that we don't remember everything the clinician says at a clinic, even if it applies directly to us. Some important things I wrote down were things such as when you go straight (down the long side) try for slightly more contact and make sure to keep the horse between both legs in the lateral work. Even if the notes are short and simple or easy things you think you'll remember, it doesn't hurt to write them down as reminders. While watching each rider I was able to write down at least one thing that I either didn't know or something that applied

to me and my horse that could be useful. All of the riders did a great job and I gained something from watching each of their lessons.

A big part of this clinic was George and Rosalind Kinstler's theory talks. Both discussions included a lot of information about the training scale and the importance of each step of that scale during the training process. We discussed the meaning of things like cadence and tempo as well as correct biomechanics. The discussions helped explain and give reasoning behind why we train horses the way we do and how it keeps our horses fit and healthy.

This clinic was a wonderful opportunity and I am so thankful I was able to be a part of it. Thank you to George Williams for coming from warm, sunny Florida to the cold and snow to teach all of us. He is an amazing teacher and helped me ride better and more effectively.

Thank you to Majestic Farm and Barbara McCarthy for hosting and organizing this clinic as well as USDF, USEF, and The Dressage Foundation for their help, funding, and support. Thank you to Rebekah Mingari for helping me get to know Elle and teaching me the ways of Elle, the most amazing mare. Thank you to KC Dunn for allowing me to ride her beautiful mare.

Thank you to my mom, Shelley Taray, for supporting my incredibly expensive sport and enduring the cold. And of course, thank you, Elle, for teaching me a lifetime of knowledge in the couple months I was able to work with you.

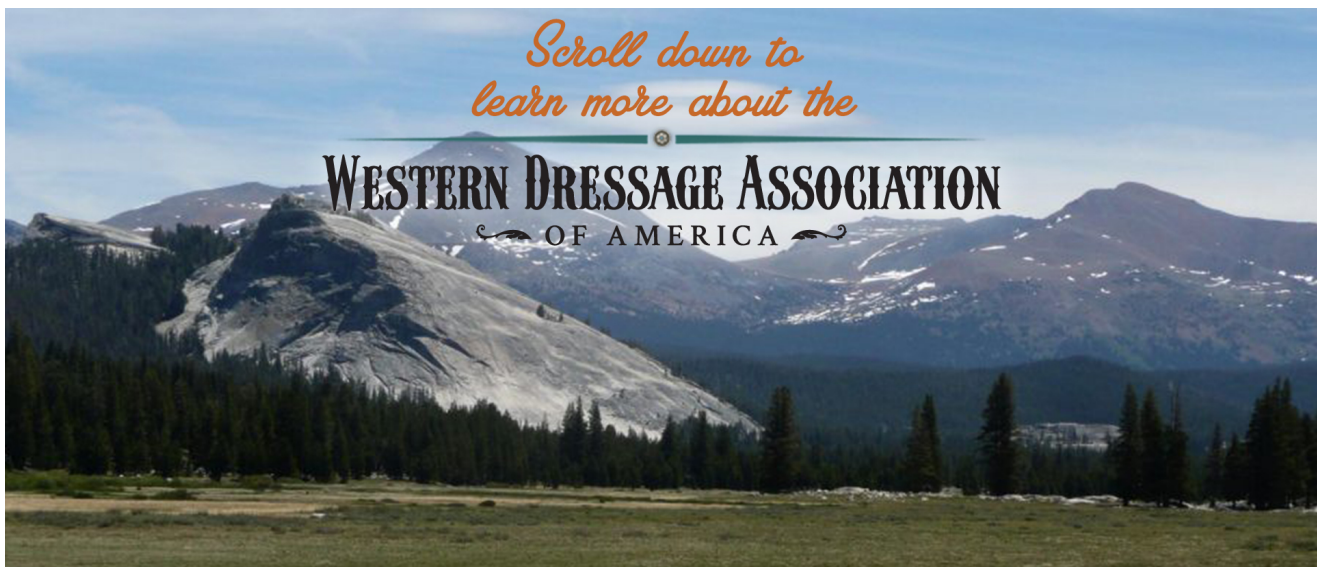


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It's About the Journey: An Interview with Past WDAA President, Ellen diBella. by Katherine Rosback

"WDAA" stands for the Western Dressage Association of America. The organization was formed in 2010 with the following mission: to honor the horse, to value the partnership between horse and rider, and to celebrate the legacy of the American West. This is achieved using the classical principles of dressage to bring out the Western horse's unique athleticism. Their primary focus is on education about and the promotion of Western Dressage. You can find more information about this growing organization at westerndressageassociation.org.

"I would say, 'not right now!'" she replies with a hearty laugh. After a couple of weeks of phone tag, I have finally connected with this incredibly energetic past-President of the WDAA, Ellen diBella, and have just asked her if the WDAA has their sights on the Olympics. "Right now we are working on just bringing out the best in people and in people's horses and developing the needed pool of judges." Ellen is one of the founding members of the WDAA. She has owned and shown Morgans since 1972 and is an avid supporter of the Western stock horse.

"We've come a long way," she adds as she relates that the WDAA was incorporated in December 2010 and now has a membership of about 1400. "Our journey was initially guided by people in the Western world. These horses have a unique athleticism and bringing the tools of classical dressage can really bring that out. But we have found that there is a significant demographic—women riders—who want to do something for themselves and their horses and these tools really appeal to them. But we've also gotten interest from some

older English riders who are no longer comfortable with riding horses with those great big gaits but still want to show.

As with most disciplines, there is a degree of understanding. "There is some confusion, especially about the bits. Sometimes people think that Western Dressage is just for a crippled, throw-away, ex-Pleasure class horse. Nothing can be further from the truth!" Indeed, many top riders in the Western disciplines of reining or cutting are using the classical dressage principles to start and finely tune their equine athletes.

Even with the continued growing interest in the sport, this is not a path that she envisions the WDAA is walking alone. "More hands make for lighter work," Ellen acknowledges, "and the more people that get involved, the more we can preserve the parks in which we ride and show. It is getting much more expensive and complicated to show. There are fewer and fewer places that even want to have a show, along with an ever-diminishing base of volunteers. So I think the partnership between the WDAA and the English dressage groups makes perfect sense in every way."

Not unexpectedly, some groups are very open and have been eager partners while other groups have not been as receptive. Florida is one of the most active state for shows but our show distribution for 2018 is very wide spread across the country. North Carolina and Georgia are pretty sparse for WD showing opportunities. "It's really happening on a state-by-state basis," Ellen explains. "But we do offer a competition calendar and people can earn lifetime points."

Like the KDA or IDS shows, the WDAA does require that a USDF-licensed judge be present. "Of course when we started, we needed an immediate pool of judges, so we've been working on that. At our recent judge's seminar in Denver, we had over 60 people." Starting in 2019, all judges will need to have a Western Dressage judges card. What's the difference between being WDAA judge and a USDF judge? "The tests are written to bring out the unique athleticism of the Western horse, so we look for some different things."

As Ellen hands over the reins to new President Cindy Butler, her enthusiasm for the discipline is unwavering. "Horses offer us an opportunity to be much better people than we could ever be without them," she shares, directing me to the WDAA Mission Statement which includes the following:

- * We honor the horse
- * We value the partnership between horse and rider
- * We celebrate the legacy of the American West.

Her final comments? "Whether your ride English or Western, you have the opportunity to have a 2-way trusting partnership," Ellen notes. "The tools and principles of classical dressage naturally make for better and healthier horses and makes us a better human being. It really is about the journey."

Interested in learning more about this organization? Plan to visit the WDAA web site!

Volunteer Hours

Many thanks to those who volunteer with the KDA! Email KDAvolunteers@gmail.com with dates, times and positions you are interested in for our upcoming shows.

The chart is updated to include the hours from our May show.

Azaar	Kelly	30		Ludwig	Ella	4
Bayer	Sophie	1		Marvin	Daphne	48
Becht	Bonnie	16		Marvin	Saxon	11
Bellocq	Bridget	4		Marvin	Sky	10
Berkhofer	Ella	7		Metcalfe	Maggie	8
Berkhofer	Samantha	7		Mingari	Jennifer	4
Beshear	Jane	4		Moore	Karen	8
Bobblitt	Jen	7		Morehead	Michelle	20
Bottom	John	31		Morrison	Barbara	7
Braun	Marnie	10		Otter	Allison	7
Burket	Laura	4		Phillips	Kim	8.5
Carr	Megan	16		Posner	Susan	1
Cook	Julie	2		Potts	Cedar	9
Deaton	Allison	6		Quarles	Wayne	1
Dixon	Jill	10		Retamoza	Tori	9
Duke	Jackie	5		Richards	Suzanne	18
Esquivil	Vicki	4		Roche	Julie	6
Foster	Amelia	6.5		Schmidt	Kylie	8
Grisolia	Kathy	3		Scott	Tracy	4
Harbor	Jennifer	6		Sekela	Sheila	1
Harris	Susan	2		Seto	Nikki	6
Hendricks	Carola	8.5		Shafer	Brooke	3
Hertz	Kara	7		Short	Catherine	4
Holland	Jackie	7		Siron	Beth	4
Jackson	Angela	6		Smith	Cindy	25
Jacob	Cathy	8.5		Soltau	Karin	4
John	Maureen	20		Strack	Sue	8
Johnsen	Pam	8		Strine	Linda	8
Jones	Sharon	7		Talley	Meredith	2
Jonkman	Ann	10		Talley	Zach	1
Jonkman	Hayley	2		Taray	Madelyn	7
Kamenish	Catherine	4		Tevis	Ruby	3.5
Keel	Richard	16		Upchurch	Meg	5
Keel	Marie	34		Weber	Carol	6
Kerr	Allison	4		Weinstein	Robin	48
Koffler	Reese	6		Welch	Lauren	2.5
Kolsted	Sue	2		Welsh	Charlotte	2.5
Kratz	Sandy	8		Welsh	Jimmy	2.5
Kuhns	Anne	10		Wentz	Nancy	8
Lebo	Joyce	18		Wolff	Allison	13
Leonard	Dave	2		Woerth	Sheila	53

KDA Board

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If you would like to participate in one of these committees, please contact Daphne Nimmons- Marvin.



KDA Mission Statement

The Kentucky Dressage Association, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, is a group member organization of the United States Dressage Federation.

The purpose of the KDA is to promote and strengthen the art and sport of Dressage in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. KDA will provide leadership to its members to assist them in fostering individual and collective growth by providing education, publications, competitions, exhibitions, and increasing general public awareness for Dressage.

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